

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office of Public Affairs

For Immediate Release August 25, 2008 **Contact: Chuck Wolfe**

Chuck.Wolfe@ky.gov Miranda Thacker

Miranda.Thacker@ky.gov

502-564-3419

Gov. Beshear announces Safe Routes to School funding for Frankfort

Projects will 'enhance quality of life' for community

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Gov. Steve Beshear today announced \$89,185 in federal Safe Routes to School funding for the city of Frankfort – an investment aimed at improving pedestrian and bicycle access for students at six local schools: Second Street, Wilkinson Street, Frankfort Middle, Collins Lane Elementary, Elkhorn Elementary and Elkhorn Middle.

"This investment will enhance the quality of life for school children and other people of Frankfort," Gov. Beshear said. "Our administration is proud to support the efforts of a progressive community to provide a safe, healthy and attractive environment for its citizens."

The funding is from the federal Safe Routes to School program. It will enable the city to replace aging, cracked and buckled sidewalks near school campuses, providing greater pedestrian access and safety and connecting campuses to nearby residential areas. Some 1,764 students live within a two-mile radius of these schools.

"These improvements should not only increase the probability that our school children will walk or ride their bikes safely to school," said Sen. Julian M. Carroll (D-Frankfort), "but will also benefit the families who live in the area, providing a convenient path for everyone in the community."

"Kentucky's children are our greatest asset, and we must provide them with safe pathways to school," said Rep. Derrick Graham (D-Frankfort). "I applaud the Governor's leadership on this important school safety issue and his commitment to Franklin County. We are honored to help keep our children safe."

"This project will provide a much needed amenity for the campuses and several neighborhoods,

benefiting a number of people in our community," said Rep. Carl Rollins (D-Midway). "The Transportation Cabinet has made a wise choice in selecting this project for Safe Routes to Schools funding."

Safe Routes to School projects are designed to encourage students in kindergarten through eighth grade to walk or ride bicycles to school, increasing their exercise and reducing motor vehicle traffic. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet administers the program in the commonwealth.

"The citizens of Franklin County can be proud of their community, and our cabinet is honored to be able to support their efforts in creating a viable travel alternative," said Transportation Secretary Joe Prather.